INTERNET CONTENT DELIVERY ACCELERATION SYSTEM EMPLOYING A HYBRID CONTENT SELECTION SCHEME

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A system and method accelerates the distribution of digital content of a global communications network such as the Internet. A central proxy server selects popular digital objects for transmission over a communication medium to provide content filling of cache databases attendant to local proxy servers. The communication medium may comprise satellite transmission using an IP multicast protocol. The local proxy servers concurrently receive the digital objects at a high rate of speed and store the digital objects in the attendant local cache databases. The local proxy servers may utilize a localized priority determination scheme to determine whether to keep or discard the transmitted digital objects. The priority determination scheme may utilize global demand data and/or local demand data. The demand data may include hits and/or misses on digital objects and may also include quantitative data about the digital objects. The priority determination scheme may be driven by feedback regarding the needs and interests of subscribing users of the local cache database. Consequently, the priority determination scheme and ultimately, the contents of a local cache database, may be unique to that local cache database.

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